

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-31, and 33-37 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 25 being the only independent claims. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended. Claims 2 and 32 have been canceled. Claims 33-37 have been newly added.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,729.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 25-26, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,345,090 (“Walker”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,353 (“Herman”) or U.S. Patent No. 7,133,835 (“Fusz”).

Claims 10-18, 27-28, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Walker in view of Herman or Fusz and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,400 (“Mandler”).

Claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9, 19-24, 30, and 32 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection of claims 1-24 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,729

The Office Action states that claims 1-24 have been rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,729.

Applicants elect to file a terminal disclaimer, which is included herewith, and submit that the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection has now been overcome.

Allowable subject matter

The Office Action states that claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9, 19-24, 30, and 32 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been canceled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and is, therefore, now allowable.

Claim 32 has been canceled. Independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 32 and is, therefore, now allowable.

Rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 25-26, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action states that the combination of Walker and Herman or Fusz teaches all of Applicants' recited elements.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and is, therefore, now allowable over the combination of Walker and Herman or Fusz.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 32 and is, therefore, now allowable over the combination of Walker and Herman or Fusz.

Claims 3, 5, 8, 26, and 29, which depend from now allowable independent claims 1 and 25, incorporate all of the limitations of the respective independent claim and are therefore also now allowable over Walker and Herman or Fusz.

Rejection of claims 10-18, 27-28, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action states that the combination of Walker and Herman or Fusz, and Mandler teaches all of Applicant's recited elements.

As previously discussed independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter and are, therefore, now allowable over the cited references.

Claims 10-18, 27-28, and 31, which depend from now allowable independent claims 1 and 25, incorporate all of the limitations of the respective independent claim and are therefore and are therefore also now allowable over Walker and Herman or Fusz, and Mandler.

Newly added claims 33-42

Claims 33-42 have been newly added. Support for newly added claim 33 can be found in original claims 1, 3, and 5, and allowable original claim 6. Support for newly added claim 34 can be found in original claims 1 and 3, and allowable original claim 4. Support for newly added claim 35 can be found in original claim 1 and allowable original claim 7. Support for newly added claim 36 can be found in original claim 1 and allowable original claim 9. Support for newly added claim 37 can be found in original claims 1 and 3, and allowable original claim 20. Support for newly added claim 38 can be found in original claims 1 and 8, and allowable original claim 21. Support for newly added claim 39 can be found in claims 1 and 8, and allowable original claim 22. Support for newly added claim 40 can be found in claims 1, 10, 12, and allowable original claim 23. Support for newly added claim 41 can be found in claims 1 and 8, and allowable original claim 24. Support for newly added claim 42 can be found in original claim 25 and allowable original claim 30.

Newly added claims 33-42 each include allowable subject matter and are, therefore, allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

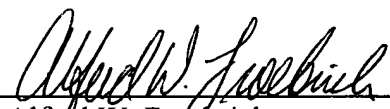
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

A check including the amount \$1,275.00 is enclosed for 9 new independent claims in excess of 3 and 8 new claims in excess of 20, and for payment of the Terminal Disclaimer.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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